
















Minimum Personal Protective Equipment Required for Paint Stripping

Refer to the Safety Data Sheet (or SDS) for information on composition of the chemical stripper and protective equipment needed

In enclosed areas, use of volatile solvents such as methylene chloride produces very high exposures, which may result in death. The California Department of Public Health, Occupational Health Branch, recommends minimizing exposures to chemicals that cause cancer and reproductive effects.

See: www.cdph.ca.gov/StripPaintSafely for a description of paint stripping products and their potential health hazards.

Paint Stripper Type	Gloves*		Eye Protection	Respirator*
	Less durable/Less expensive	More durable/More expensive		
Benzyl Alcohol	Laminate of EVOH/PE (i.e. Silvershield®/4H by North) 	or Nitrile 	Indirectly vented or unvented chemical goggles and face shield 	For typical application by brush, normally no respirator is needed. If spray-applied or if occupational exposure guidelines are exceeded, use full face NIOSH-certified respirator with organic vapor cartridges or half mask with eye protection and dust/mist pre-filter.
Caustics	Laminate of EVOH and PE (i.e. Silvershield®/4H by North) 	or Neoprene, or Nitrile 	Indirectly vented or unvented chemical goggles <u>and</u> face shield  	If spray-applied, use full face NIOSH-certified respirator with dust filters or half mask with eye protection.
N-Methyl-2-Pyrrolidone (NMP)	Laminate of EVOH and PE (i.e. Silvershield®/4H by North) 	or Butyl Rubber 	Indirectly vented chemical goggles 	NIOSH-certified respirator with organic vapor (OV) cartridges. If spray-applied, use OV cartridge with dust/mist pre-filter. 
Methylene Chloride-based	Laminate of EVOH and PE (i.e. Silvershield®/4H by North) 	or Polyvinyl Alcohol (PVA) 	Indirectly vented chemical goggles unless full-face respirator worn. 	Supplied-air (airline) respirator 

Occupational Health Branch, California Department of Public Health

* See notes on reverse side.

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohb/Pages/methylenechloride.aspx>

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* Glove Note: EVOH/PE (ethylene vinyl alcohol / polyethylene) laminate gloves can be used as glove liners inside another glove, if a more durable glove is needed.

Check with glove manufacturers regarding the chemical resistance of their gloves.

Internet Resources: Glove manufacturers have information on chemical resistance for their gloves.

MAPA: www.mapa-pro.com/hand-protection-selection-guide.html

Ansell: www.ansellpro.com/

ShowaBest Glove: www.chemrest.com/

North Safety: www.northsafety.com

* Respirator Note: The respirator recommendations above assume typical use of paint strippers by contractors and consumers (short duration, intermittent use). When methylene chloride levels in workplace air are above the Cal/OSHA permissible exposure limit (PEL) or short-term exposure limit (STEL), a supplied-air respirator must be worn. For the other paint strippers, when air levels are higher than typical, more protective respirators may be required for protection. Respirator wearers and their employers must choose the type of respirator based on the levels (concentrations) of chemicals in the air and the form of the chemicals (vapor, gas, or particle). In the workplace, air levels must be measured to determine the correct type of respirator to wear. Respirators must be selected in accordance with Cal/OSHA regulations, the respirator manufacturers' guidelines on use and limitations for their respirators, and good industrial hygiene practices. In the workplace, respirator wearers must also have a medical clearance to wear a respirator and must receive training and fit testing, as appropriate, for their respirator. See California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 8, Section 5144, Respiratory Protection (www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5144.html) and 8CCR 5202 Methylene chloride (www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5202.html).